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Message Text

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61
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 NSCE-00 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01

DRC-01 /106 W
---------- 102892
R 020350Z MAR 74
FM USLO PEKING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1445
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 0358

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ETRD, BTRA, ETRN, PINT, CH
SUBJ: CONDITIONS IN SHANGHAI; BOEING TECHNICIAN
PHOTOGRAPHY INCIDENT

SUMMARY: TWO LITTON INDUSTRIES PERSONNEL INCLUDED IN
THE DELIVERY TEAM FOR BOEING'S SEVENTH 707 REPORT THAT
IN A THREE-DAY VISIT TO SHANGHAI THEY SAW "WALL POSTERS
EVERYWHERE," BUT NOTED THAT MANY WERE BEING CLEANED AWAY
ON FEBRUARY 26 (POSSIBLY IN PREPARATION FOR ALGERIAN
PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENNE'S VISIT). THEIR RELATIONS WITH
THEIR HOSTS FROM THE MCAHINERY CORPORATION WERE UNAFFECTED
BY CHINA'S CURRENT POLITICAL MOVEMENT, BUT THEY WERE
CAREFULLY WARNED ABOUT TAKING PICTURES, IN THE WAKE OF
AN INCIDENT INVOLVING A PEKING-BASED BOEING TECHNICIAN.
END SUMMARY.

1. TWO LITTON INDUSTRIES REPRESENTATIVES, WHO ARRIVED
IN SHANGHAI LAST WEEK WITH DELIVERY TEAM FOR THE SEVENTH
OF TEN BOEING 707'S, SPENT THREE DAYS IN THAT CITY BEFORE
COMING TO PEKING ON FEBRUARY 26. THEY CALLED AT USLO
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MARCH 1 AND PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON

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CONDITIONS IN SHANGHAI AND ON THEIR BUSINESS ACTIVITIES.

2. WALL POSTERS WERE EVERYWHERE IN SHANGHAI, ON BUILDINGS, IN THE FACTORIES, AND IN ALMOST ALL OTHER PLACES WHICH THE BOEING/LITTON GROUP VISITED. SINCE THE GROUP WAS ASKED NOT TO PHOTOGRAPH POLITICAL POSTERS (SEE PARA 4 BELOW), THERE "WAS ALMOST NO PLACE YOU COULD POINT YOUR CAMERA BUT STRAIGHT UP." ON THE MORNING OF FEBRUARY 26, HOWEVER, WORKERS BEGAN WASHING THE POSTERS AND SLOGANS OFF WALLS OF CITY BUILDINGS, AT LEAST IN THE DOWNTOWN AREA. (COMMENT: CONCEIVABLY THIS WAS PART OF CLEAN-UP OPERATIONS PREPARATORY TO THE FEBRUARY 28 VISIT OF ALGERIAN PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENNE). THE GROUP ALSO WITNESSED A LARGE PARADE THAT DAY, WHICH THEY WERE TOLD WAS COMPOSED OF YOUTH LEAVING FOR THE COUNTRYSIDE.

3. AS FAR AS THEY COULD OBSERVE, WORK WAS PROCEEDING NORMALLY IN FACTORIES VISITED, AND THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE THAT THE CURRENT MOVEMENT WAS INTERFERING WITH PRODUCTION. THEY WERE TOLD, HOWEVER, THAT ALL MACHIMPEX STAFF MEMBERS IN SHANGHAI MUST NOW TAKE ONE DAY OFF EACH WEEK FROM THEIR REGULAR DUTIES IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN FACTORY OR WAREHOUSE LABOR.

4. ON ARRIVAL IN SHANGHAI, THE BOEING/LITTON TEAM WAS WARNED BY THE MACHIMPEX HOST TO BE EXTREMELY CAREFUL IN THE USE OF CAMERAS. REFERRING IN STANDARD TERMS TO THE ANTONIONI FILM WHICH HE SAID HAD CONVEYED A POOR IMAGE OF CHINA, HE ADVISED AGAINST TAKING PICTURES WHICH MIGHT DO THE SAME, AND TOLD THEM NOT TO PHOTOGRAPH WALL POSTERS. THIS WARNING FOLLOWED AN INCIDENT INVOLVING ONE OF THE PEKING-BASED BOEING TECHNICIANS WHO HAD ARRIVED IN SHANGHAI EARLIER IN CONNECTION WITH THIS DELIVERY. THE LATTER RAN INTO TROUBLE WHEN A SHANGHAI RESIDENT CAME TO THE HOTEL TO ACCUSE HIM OF HAVING TAKEN AN "OBSCENE" PHOTOGRAPH, TO WIT A SCENE WHICH INCLUDED A CHILD IN TRADITIONAL SPLIT TROUSERS URINATING. THE TECHNICIAN'S FILM WAS TAKEN BY MACHIMPEX PERSONNEL APPARENTLY AT THE REQUEST OF PUBLIC SECURITY AUTHORITIES WHO DEVELOPED IT AND FOUND NO OFFENSIVE PICTURES.
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ON THE PERSONAL SIDE, THOSE IN THE DELIVERY TEAM WHO HAD VISITED CHINA BEFORE DETECTED NO CHANGE IN THE ATTITUDES OF PEOPLE ON THE STREETS OF SHANGHAI (THE PHOTO INCIDENT EXCEPTED) AND FOUND THEIR HOSTS TREATING THEM AS "OLD FRIENDS".

6. LITTON MARKETING REPRESENTATIVE DAVE POLLOCK SAID HE WILL BE IN PEKING A FEW DAYS TO EXPLAIN LITTON'S PLAN FOR PROVIDING TRAINING TO THE CHINESE AND TO BEGIN

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DISCUSSIONS ON SUBSEQUENT MAINTENANCE SERVICES THAT LITTON WILL PROVIDE FOR THE LITTON-MANUFACTURED INERTIAL NAVIGATION SYSTEMS (INS) WHICH ARE BEING INCLUDED ON THE LAST FOUR BOEINGS. (HE EXPLAINED THAT MAINTENANCE ON THESE INS UNITS WILL HAVE TO BE PERFORMED IN THE US AT ABOUT DOLS 80,000 PER YEAR. HE ALSO NOTED THAT TWO UNITS ARE INCLUDED ON EACH OF THE FOUR AIRCRAFT AND THAT THE CHINESE HAVE PURCHASED EIGHT SPARES.)

7. COMMENT: THE BOEING TECHNICIAN'S PHOTO-TAKING DIFFICULTY UNDERSCORES THE NEED TO WARN AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN TO BE EXTREMELY CAREFUL WITH THEIR CAMERAS THESE DAYS. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT THE BOEING INCIDENT SHOULD NOT BE USED AS AN EXAMPLE AND SHOULD BE HELD IN STRICTEST CONFIDENCE, TO AVOID POSSIBLE EMBARRASSMENT TO BOEING IN ITS FUTURE DEALINGS WITH THE CHINESE.
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